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## Platform Adopted By the Democratic National Convention

The Democratic party, in national convention assembled adopted the following declaration to the end that the people of the United States may both realize the achievements wrought by four years of Democratic administration and be apprised of the policies to which the party is committed for the further conduct of national affairs.

**Record of Achievement.**  
"We endorse the administration of Woodrow Wilson. . . . It is the best exposition of sound Democratic policy at home and abroad.

"We challenge comparison on our record, our keeping of pledges, and our constructive legislation, with those of any party at any time.

"We found our country hampered by special privilege, a vicious tariff, obsolete banking laws, and an inelastic currency. . . . The Republican party, despite repeated pledges was impotent to correct abuses which it had fostered. Under our administration under a leadership which has never faltered these abuses have been corrected, and our people have been freed therefrom.

"Our archaic banking and currency, prolific of panic and disaster under Republican administration—long the refuge of the money trust—has been supplanted by the federal reserve act, a true democracy of credit under government control, already proved a financial bulwark in the world crisis, mobilizing our resources, placing abundant credit at the disposal of legitimate industry, and making a currency panic impossible.

**Federal Trade Commission.**  
"We have created a federal trade commission to accommodate the perplexing questions arising under the anti-trust laws so that monopoly may be strangled at its birth and legitimate industry encouraged. Fair competition in business is now assured.

**Tariff Adjustment.**  
"We have effected an adjustment of the tariff, . . . fair to the consumer and to the producer. We have adjusted the burdens of taxation so that swollen incomes bear their equitable share. . . . The platform asserts that the Democratic party had lifted human labor from the category of commodities and has secured to the working man the right of voluntary association for his welfare. It also says that the party has improved the postal service in every branch and placed the postoffice on a self-supporting basis for the first time in the country's history.

**"Economic Freedom."**  
It is declared that reforms needed to clear away privilege and prevent unfair discrimination, have been effected by recent legislation and that, as far as possible the party must remove every remaining element of unrest and uncertainty from the path of the business men of America.

**The Tariff.**  
"The doctrine of a tariff for purpose of providing sufficient revenue for the operation of the government is reaffirmed and the Underwood tariff is endorsed as exemplifying this doctrine.

It is then recited that the party recognizes that tariff rates are necessarily subject to change to meet changing conditions in the world's product and trade. The world war is pointed to as a cause of such change and the act of the present congress in appointing a non-partisan tariff commission to "make impartial and thorough study of every economic fact that may throw light either upon our past or upon future fiscal policy with regard to the imposition of taxes or imports or with regard to the changing and changed conditions under which our trade is carried on," is endorsed.

**Americanism.**  
"The part that the United States will play in the new day of international relationships which is now upon us will depend upon our preparation and our character. The democratic party therefore recognizes the assertion and triumphant demonstration of the indivisibility and coherent strength of the nation, as the supreme issues of this day in which the whole world faces the crisis of manifold change. . . . It summons all men, of whatever origin or creed, who would count themselves Americans to join in making clear to all the world the unity and consequent power of America.

"This is an issue of patriotism. To taint it with partisanship would be to defile it. In this day of test, America must show itself, not a nation of partisans but a nation of patriots. There is gathered here in America the best of the blood, the industry and the genius of the whole world the element of a great race and a magnificent society to be melted into a mighty and splendid nation.

"Whoever, actuated by the purpose to promote the interest of a foreign power in disregard of our own country's welfare or to injure their government, in its foreign relations or cripple or destroy its industries at home and whoever, by arousing prejudices of a racial, religious or other nature, creates discord and strife among our people, so as to obstruct the wholesome process of unification, is faithless to the trust which the privileges of citizenship repose in him and disloyal to his country.

"We, therefore, condemn as subversive of this nation's unity and integrity, and as destructive of its welfare, the activities and designs of every group or organization, political or otherwise, that has for its object the advancement of the interest of a foreign power, whether such object is promoted by intimidating the government, a political party, or representatives of the people, or which is calculated to divide and thus to destroy that complete agreement and solidarity of the people and the unity of sentiment and national pur-

pose so essential to the perpetuity of the nation and its free institutions.

**Conspiracy Charges.**

"We condemn all alliances and combinations of individuals in this country of whatever nationality or descent who agree and conspire together for the purpose of embarrassing or weakening our government or of improperly influencing or coercing our public representatives in dealing or negotiating with any foreign power. We charge that such conspiracies among a limited number exist and have been instigated for the purpose of advancing the interests of foreign countries to the prejudice and detriment of our own country. We condemn any political party which, in view of the activity of such conspirators, surrenders its integrity or modifies its policy.

**Preparedness.**

"Along with the proof of our character as a nation must go the proof of our power to play the part that legitimately belongs to us. The people of the United States love peace. They respect the rights and covet the friendship of all other nations. They desire neither any additional territory nor any advantage which cannot be peacefully gained by their skill, their industry, or their enterprise, but they insist upon having absolute freedom of national life and policy, and feel that they owe it to themselves and to the rule of spirited independence which it is their sole ambition to play that they should render themselves secure against the hazard of interference from any quarter, and should be able to protect their rights upon the seas, or in any part of the world. We therefore favor the maintenance of an army fully adequate to the requirements of order, of safety and of the protection of the nation's rights, the fullest development of modern methods of sea coast defense, and the maintenance of an adequate reserve of citizens trained to arms and prepared to safeguard the people and territory of the United States against any danger of hostile action which may unexpectedly arise; and a fixed policy of the continuous development of a navy worthy to support the great naval traditions of the United States and fully equal to the international tasks which the United States hopes and expects to take part in performing. The plans and enactments of the present congress afford substantial proof of our purpose in this exigent matter.

**International Relations.**

"The democratic administration has throughout the present war scrupulously and successfully held to the old paths of neutrality and of the peaceful pursuit of the legitimate objects of our national life which statesmen of all parties and creeds have prescribed for themselves in America since the beginning of our history. But the circumstances of the last two years have revealed necessities of international action which no former generation can have foreseen. We hold that it is the duty of the United States to use its power, not only to make itself safe at home, but also to make secure its just interests throughout the world, and, both for this end and in the interest of humanity to exist in the world in securing settled peace and justice. We believe that every people has the right to choose the sovereignty under which it shall live; that the small states of the world have a right to enjoy from other nations the same respect for their sovereignty and for their territorial integrity that great and powerful nations expect and insist upon; and that the world has a right to be free from every disturbance of its peace that has its origin in aggression or disregard of the rights of peoples and nations; and we believe that the time has come when it is the duty of the United States to join with the other nations of the world in any feasible association that will effectively serve these principles, to maintain inviolate the complete security of the highway of the seas for the common and unhindered use of all nations.

**Pan-American Relations.**

"The present administration has consistently sought to act upon and realize in its conduct of the foreign affairs of the nation the principles that should be the object of any association of the nations formed to secure the peace of the world and the maintenance of national and individual rights. It has followed the highest American traditions. It has preferred respect for the fundamental rights of smaller states, even to property interests, and has secured the friendship of the people of these states for the United States by refusing to make a more material interest excuse for the assertion of our superior power against the dignity of their sovereign independence. It has regarded the lives of its citizens and the claims of humanity as of greater moment than material rights, and peace as the best basis for the just settlement of commercial claims. It has made the honor and ideals of the United States its standard alike in negotiations and action.

**Pan-American Record.**

"We recognize now as we have always recognized, a definite and common interest between the United States with the other peoples and republics of the western hemisphere in all matters of national independence and free political development. We favor the establishment and maintenance of the closest relations of amity and mutual helpfulness between the United States and the other republics of the American continents for the support of peace and the promotion of a common prosperity. To that end we favor all measures which may be necessary to facilitate intimate intercourse and promote commerce between the United States and her neighbors to the south of us, and such international understandings as may be practicable and suitable to

accomplish these ends.

"We commend the action of the Democratic administration in holding the Pan-American financial conference in Washington in May, 1915, and organizing the international high commission which represented the United States in the recent meeting of representatives of the Latin-American republics of the western hemisphere in which have so greatly promoted the friendly relations between the people of the western hemisphere.

**Mexico.**

"The Monroe Doctrine is reasserted as a principle of democratic faith. That doctrine guarantees the independent republic of the two Americas against aggression from another continent. It implies, as well, the most scrupulous regard upon our part of the sovereignty of each of them. The want of stable responsible government in Mexico, capable of repressing and punishing marauders and bandit bands, who have not only taken the lives, and seized and destroyed the property of American citizens in that country, but have insolently invaded our soil, made war upon and murdered our people thereon, has rendered it necessary temporarily to occupy by our armed forces a portion of the territory of that friendly state. Until, by the restoration of law and order therein, a repetition of such incursions is improbable, the necessity for their remaining will continue.

"Intervention, implying as it does military subjugation, is revolting to the people of the United States, notwithstanding the provocation to that course has been great and should be resorted to, if at all, only as a last resort. The stubborn resistance of the president and his advisers to every demand and suggestion to enter upon it, is creditable alike to them and to the people in whose name he speaks."

**Merchant Marine.**

"Immediate provision should be made for the development of the carrying trade of the United States. Our foreign commerce has in the past been subject to many unnecessary and vexatious obstacles in the way of legislation of republicans congresses. Until the recent democratic tariff legislation it was hampered by unreasonable burdens of taxation. Until the recent banking legislation it had at its disposal few of the necessary instrumentalities of international credit and exchange. Until the formation of the pending act to promote the construction of a merchant marine it lacked even the prospect of adequate carriage by sea. We heartily endorse the purposes and policy of the pending shipping bill and favor all such additional measures of constructive or remedial legislation as may be necessary to restore our flag to the seas and to provide further facilities of our foreign commerce, particularly such laws as may be made to remove unfair conditions of competition in the dealings of American merchants and producers with competitors in foreign markets.

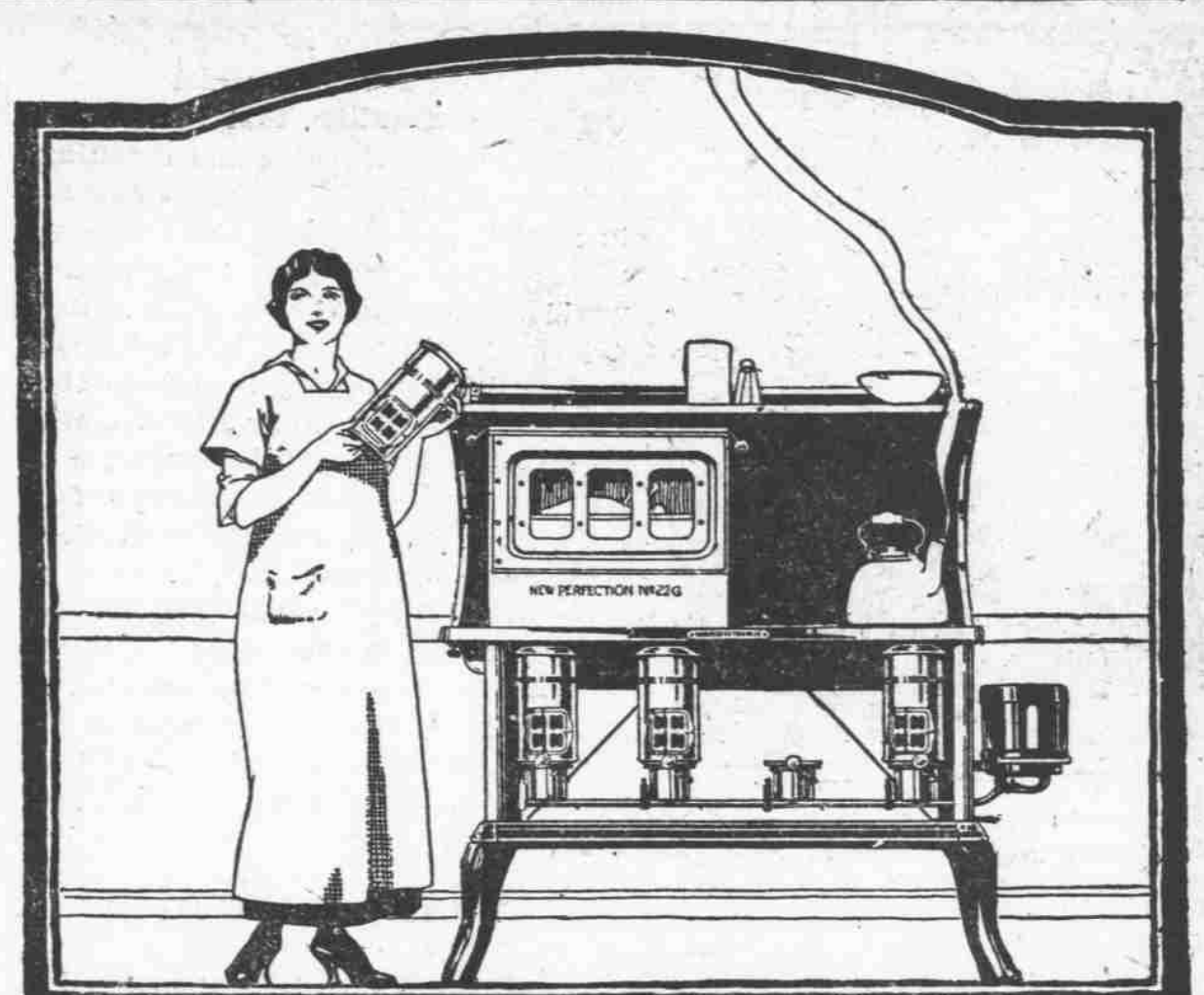
**Conservation.**

Conservation and development of the country's natural resources through a policy which shall not withhold such resources from development but which shall prevent both waste and monopoly in their exploitation are suggested. The declaration of the platform of 1912 on this subject was reaffirmed.

The platform continues:

**The Administration and the Farmer.**  
"We favor the vigorous prosecution of investigations and plans to render agriculture more profitable and country life more healthful, comfortable and attractive, and we believe that this should be the dominant air of the nation as well as of the states. With all its recent improvement, farming still lags behind other occupations in development as a business and the advantages of an advancing civilization have not accrued to rural communities in a fair proportion.

Much has been accomplished in the field under the present administration—far more than under any previous administration. In the federal reserve act of the last congress, and the rural credits act of the present congress, the machinery has been created which will make credit available to the farmer constantly and readily, and he has at last been put upon a footing of equality with the merchant and the manufacturer in securing the capital necessary to carry on his enterprises. Grades and standards necessary to the intelligent and successful conduct of business of agriculture have also been established or are in the course of being established by law. The long needed cotton futures act, passed by the sixty-third congress, has now been in successful operation for nearly two years. A new grain grades bill, long needed and a permissive warehouse bill intended to provide better storage facilities and to enable the farmer to obtain certificates upon which he may secure advances of money, have been passed by the house of representatives, have been favorably reported to the senate and will probably become a law during the present sessions of the congress. Both houses have passed a good roads measure which will be of far-reaching benefit to all agricultural communities. Above all, the most extraordinary and significant progress has been made under the direction of department of agriculture in extending and perfecting practical farm demonstration work, which is so rapidly substituting scientific for empirical farming. But it is also necessary that the rural activities should be better directed through co-operation and organization, that unfair methods of competition should be eliminated and the conditions requisite for the just, orderly and economical marketing of farm products created. We approve that democratic administration for having emphatically directed attention for the first time to the essential interests of agriculture involved in farm marketing and finance, for creating the office of markets and rural organization in connection with the department of agriculture and for extending the co-operative machinery for conveying information to farmers by means of demonstrations. We favor continued liberal provision, not only for the benefit of production, but



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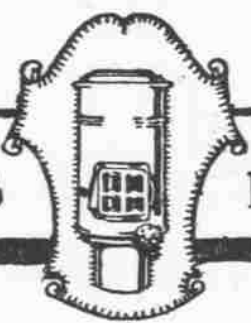
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also for the study and solution of problems of farm marketing and finance and for the extension of existing agencies for improving country life.

**Good Roads.**

"The happiness, comfort and prosperity of rural life, and the development of the city, are alike conserved by the construction of public highways. We, therefore, favor national

aid in the construction of post roads and roads for military purposes.

**Government Employment.**

"We hold that the life, health and strength of the men, women and children of the nation are its greatest asset, and that in the conservation of these the federal government wherever it acts as the employer of labor

(Continued on Page 11.)

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